

REMARKS

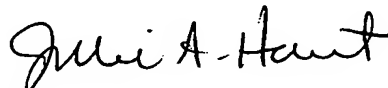
The Examiner has made an opinion that Claim 1 of the present application lacks novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,315,783 ("Katz"). The Examiner further states that "Katz discloses a stereotactic head support that includes a plate (12) connected to the surgical table by a bracket (140). Katz explains that a leverage system (100) allows three-dimensional movements of the head holder (10) with respect to a shaft (130) (column 7, lines 49-60) and there are other adjustable parts of the assembly. Tilttable arm (20) rotates around a vertical axis of shaft (34) (column 5, lines 5-10 and 39-40); extension (36) rotates about shaft (40) (column 5, lines 45-53); plate (12) can move angularly about axis of bolt (66) (column 6, lines 9-30); and connector (72) rotates about a longitudinal axis (column 6, lines 45-55)."

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's opinion that originally-filed Claim 1 lacks novelty in view of Katz, however, Applicant has canceled originally-filed Claim 1, and therefore, this rejection is moot. Applicant submits that Katz does not teach or suggest the subject matter of new Claims 2-21.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that new Claims 2-21 are patentably distinct over the prior art. Applicant respectfully requests a favorable International Preliminary Examination Report.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie A. Haut
Reg. No. 51,789

Docket No. 013869-9006 WO
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 3300
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108
414.271.6560